
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6603

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Doumit, Morton and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to wildfire prevention and protection; creating new
2 sections; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
5 group is established. The work group consists of the following
6 members:

7 (1) Two members representing counties that contain significant
8 forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from eastern and
9 western Washington, selected by the Washington state association of
10 counties;

11 (2) A member representing a city that contains significant forest
12 land, grazing land, or both, selected by the association of Washington
13 cities;

14 (3) Three members representing fire districts that contain
15 significant forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from
16 eastern and western Washington, selected by the state fire
17 commissioners association;

18 (4) Two members representing environmental protection

1 organizations, selected by the executive director of the Washington
2 state conservation commission;

3 (5) A member representing industrial forest landowners, selected by
4 the Washington forest protection association;

5 (6) A member representing small forest landowners, selected by the
6 Washington farm forestry association;

7 (7) A member representing the building industry, selected by the
8 building industry association of Washington;

9 (8) A member representing realtors, selected by the Washington
10 association of realtors;

11 (9) One representative of agriculture selected by the Washington
12 farm bureau;

13 (10) One contract logger selected by the contract loggers
14 association;

15 (11) One person selected by the Washington cattlemens association;

16 (12) One person from the Washington state patrol's fire protection
17 program;

18 (13) Two forest landowners with large forest lands, one from east
19 of the crest of the Cascade mountains and one from west of the crest of
20 the Cascade mountains;

21 (14) The insurance commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

22 (15) A member representing the Washington state building code
23 council, selected by the chair of the council; and

24 (16) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's
25 designee.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The wildfire prevention and protection
27 work group shall review existing fire studies conducted by or for the
28 department of natural resources, the joint legislative audit and review
29 committee, and other organizations. The work group shall review the
30 following issues:

31 (a) Whether the forest fire protection assessment rate provides
32 sufficient funding towards the protection of public and private lands
33 from wildfires;

34 (b) Whether the statutory limitations on the purposes for which
35 moneys collected through the forest fire protection assessment and from
36 the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account may be
37 expended are warranted;

1 (c) Whether the term "forest land," as set forth in RCW 76.04.005,
2 properly defines the scope of land on which the forest fire protection
3 assessment should be assessed;

4 (d) Whether forest fire protection assessments are currently being
5 collected from all lands on which the department of natural resources
6 has the duty to impose such assessments;

7 (e) Whether the adoption of elements from wildfire programs of
8 other western states would improve wildfire protection and suppression
9 in Washington state;

10 (f) Whether the department of natural resources' authority to
11 protect forest land should include the authority to protect structures;

12 (g) Whether improvements and efficiencies in the department of
13 natural resources' fire protection activities would impact fire
14 suppression activities and expenses;

15 (h) Whether state and local building codes adequately address the
16 dangers posed by development in areas subject to wildfires;

17 (i) Whether local government land use regulations, and state
18 advisory and assistance programs, adequately address the dangers posed
19 by development in areas subject to wildfires; and

20 (j) Whether insurance rates in Washington state reflect the dangers
21 posed by development in areas subject to wildfires.

22 (2) Members of the forest fire prevention and protection work group
23 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and
24 43.03.060.

25 (3) The work group must be staffed by senate committee services and
26 the office of program research.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
28 group shall report its findings and recommendations in the form of
29 draft legislation to the legislature by December 1, 2006.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, or
31 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
32 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the senate for the
33 travel expenses of the wildfire prevention and protection work group.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires July 1, 2007.

--- END ---